



PAM SLATER

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May 24, 2001

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Ms. Mary Nichols
Secretary CA State Resources Agency
1416 9th Street, Suite 1311
Sacramento, California 95814

RE: Draft Policy on Coastal Erosion Planning and Response

Dear Secretary Nichols:

California's coastline is an extraordinary natural resource of significant economic, environmental, recreational, and aesthetic value. Our coastal areas provide irreplaceable statewide recreational, educational, and inspirational opportunities that generate exceptional tourism revenue, but also provide important habitat for many native and endangered species.

There is compelling need to adopt and implement clear and consistent policies related to coastal erosion to protect these substantial coastal resources. New policy must provide for the maintenance of critical infrastructure and protection of natural resources, while considering the sometimes unpredictable nature of our coastal bluffs, beaches, and sand resources.

As the Supervisor whose district contains a majority of San Diego's coastline, I would like to support the three major management strategies proposed in the Draft Coastal Erosion Policy. These management strategies: hazard avoidance, relocation, and coastal protection, will help us plan for and respond to coastal erosion. More importantly, this policy provides a regional approach for addressing shoreline erosion since the natural processes and human activities that cause shoreline erosion and coastal loss in San Diego County can occur many miles away.

I fully support the guiding principle of hazard avoidance requiring that new coastal development assure stability and structural integrity, and neither contributes to erosion, geologic instability, or destruction of the site or surrounding area. Nor in any way requires construction of protective devices that would substantially alter natural landforms along bluffs and cliffs. For areas where existing development is threatened, the first priority should be to evaluate the feasibility of relocating such development. The second priority should be to evaluate the use of beach nourishment as a tool of providing economic stability for beach




tourism, if it is feasible and can be used effectively, and without significant effects on the environment. Finally, the use of hard structures should only be considered after these and other less environmentally damaging alternatives are evaluated and deemed infeasible. I recommend that state and federal governments work closely with local cities on these issues.

Further, I fully support the concept that the entire coastline is a single unit with the activities in the north affecting beaches, shore, and near shore in the south, and vice versa. The policy's success rests in its regional approach not only for the state, but also the jurisdictions that must implement the policy on a local level. This policy will provide the necessary guidance to help establish a more consistent, coordinated, and efficient approach to coastal erosion and beach loss by state and local agencies, boards, commissions, and conservancies.

I thank you for this opportunity to present my views.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pam Slater". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

PAM SLATER
Supervisor
Third District

PS/sk